

Department of Homeland Security/Community Roundtable for the U.S. Universal Periodic Review: Chicago, Illinois

February 18, 2010

Three federal agencies participated in the Roundtable: Chaired by the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State and the Department of Justice were represented.

- **Presentation by Customs and Border Protection on Port of Entry Procedures & Related Matters**

Representatives of the Muslim community in Chicago raised concerns about individuals who get taken to secondary inspection immediately after disembarking from an airplane. Speakers stated that, although such individuals are repeatedly asked the same questions by agents, no explanations are given as to why the questions are being asked. Additionally, they said, American citizens can be pulled into secondary inspection and are told they are being questioned due to their place of birth. Members of the Muslim community asserted that the practice of targeting Arab and Muslim individuals for additional inspection is occurring all over the country.

- **Presentation by the Transportation Security Administration on Advanced Imaging Technology**

With an emphasis on privacy issues, this presentation included a discussion of the new technology that will be implemented in all airports. Although the technology creates detailed body images, faces are blurred. Examiners are in a separate room and communicate by radio with an examiner at the machine. Participants raised concerns that even with their faces blurred, Muslims cannot expose their bodies. In response, the Transportation Security Administration asserted anyone could opt out of using the new technology and request a pat-down.

- **Discussion of Radicalization led by the Department of Homeland Security**

The Department of Homeland Security is talking to communities to discuss causes, manifestations, and ways to address radicalization. Community members noted several issues and possible causes of radicalization, such as United States foreign policy, societal perceptions and pressures on children, the impact of the economic downturn on the Muslim community, and language and cultural barriers leading to exclusion.

- **Presentation by the Department of Justice on Discrimination**

Members of the community raised the issue of racial profiling by police in suburban areas. They said that although profiling is not prevalent in Chicago, residents of suburbs heavily populated by Arab communities experience a significant amount of profiling. Other participants asserted that the Internal Revenue Service has profiled Muslims in its auditing practices. Finally,

participants mentioned concerns about the Census and its lack of an "Arab-American" ethnic category, which they said impedes the opportunity to identify their ethnicity.